



Appl. No. 10/032,184

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant(s): Masakazu Nakamura et al.

Appl. No.: 10/032,184

Conf. No.: 4924

Filed: December 21, 2001

Title: APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTRONIC TICKET  
MANAGEMENT AND ELECTRONIC-TICKET-DISTRIBUTION  
AUTHENTICATION

Art Unit: 3653

Examiner: Michael E. Butler

Docket No.: 112857-309

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

The present amendment and remarks are in Response to the Non-Final Office Action entered in the above-identified case and mailed on February 13, 2004. Claims 1, 14-18, 52 and 54 are pending in the application. All stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated U.S. Patent No. 6,173,209 to Laval et al. Additionally, claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite due to a language-punctuation error. With regard to both rejections Applicants respectfully traverse.

Turning first to claim 1, an electronic ticket management system is called for. The electronic ticket management system includes 1) an event organizer apparatus; 2) an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus; 3) an information storage chip; and an electronic ticket platform center. The event organization apparatus is used for planning an event. The electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus is used for distributing electronic ticket information that authenticates a right to attend the event. The information storage chip is used to store the electronic ticket information. And the electronic ticket platform center manages the distribution of the electronic ticket information. The event organizer apparatus creates information regarding an event, and registers the event information in the electronic ticket platform center. A user of the system who wants to attend the event issues a request to the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus requesting that the electronic ticket

distribution authentication apparatus distribute the electronic ticket information concerning the event in question. Upon receiving the request the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus performs authentication processing to determine whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user. The electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus then registers an authentication result in the electronic ticket platform center. The authentication result takes the form of ticket issuing information.

The electronic ticket platform center then creates an electronic ticket information master based on the event information registered by the event organization apparatus. The electronic ticket platform center then relates the ticket issuing information registered by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to the electronic ticket information master. Finally, the electronic ticket platform center performs ticket issuing processing for writing the electronic ticket information into the user's information storage chip based on the ticket issuing information.

With regard to the §112 rejection, Applicants are unable to locate a language-punctuation error that requires a device that predicts the pressing of a dispense request as stated by the Examiner. The claim as it presently stands clearly states that the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus receives a request to distribute the electronic ticket information concerning an event from a user of the information storage chip. There is no ambiguity in this statement. The Examiner's statement that "an additional interpretation of the claim language is the act of dispensing triggers a time in interval till the dispense request of the subsequent dispense cycle" is incomprehensible. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner explain how this statement relates to the claim at issue. And again, finally, Applicants do not understand the statement "it is not apparent what relationship corresponds to 'relate the ticket information master'..." Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is definite on its face and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 should be withdrawn.

As for the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Laval et al., the features of claim 1 which are not taught by Laval et al. are numerous.

First and foremost, Laval et al. do not disclose an event organizer apparatus for planning an event, wherein the event organizer creates information unique to an event, and registers the event information to an electronic ticket platform center. According to the Examiner, this feature is taught by Laval et al. at column 6, lines 32-46. However, the cited passage merely discloses a

first validator for determining whether a customer is authorized to receive an assigned time for entering an attraction via a second queue. Nothing in the cited passage describes planning an event and registering information about the event in an electronic ticket platform center. Claim 1 is allowable over Laval et al., based on this omission alone. Nonetheless, Laval et al. also fail to teach the electronic ticket platform center as claimed in claim 1. Laval et al. do provide a master server 102 which acts as an algorithm processor for a plurality of local servers. However, Laval et al.'s master server does not perform the same functions as the electronic ticket platform center of pending claim 1. Namely, Laval et al.'s master server does not create an electronic ticket information master based on event information registered by an event organizer apparatus. Nor does Laval et al.'s master server relate ticket issuing information registered by an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to an electronic ticket information master. Because Laval et al. do not disclose these features of claim 1, Laval et al. do not anticipate and the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) should be withdrawn.

Turning now to claim 14, this calls for an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus wherein, among other things, the ticket distribution authentication apparatus registers an authentication result with an electronic ticket platform center and instructs the electronic ticket platform center to perform ticket issuing processing for writing electronic ticket information into an information storage chip. No such electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus is disclosed by Laval et al.

Laval et al. teach a first validator which determines the right of a customer to enter an attraction via a second queue when the first validator determines that the customer is authorized to enter the attraction via the second queue. The media distributor is instructed to issue a pass which includes a time at which the customer can enter the second queue. The media distributor of Laval et al. does not correspond to the electronic ticket platform center of claim 14 of the present application and does not perform any of the same functions. Accordingly, claim 14 is also not anticipated by Laval et al.

Briefly, claims 52 and 54 are allowable for similar reasons. Claim 52 calls for, among other things, an electronic ticket information forming unit for forming event information unique to each event. Laval et al. do not teach any corresponding unit. Claim 54 includes, among other things, an electronic ticket information reader which permits entrance into an event venue only when the integrity of the information stored on an information storage chip has been verified.

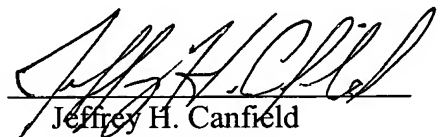
Laval et al. teach nothing regarding verification of the integrity of the information read by either their first validator or their second validator. According, claims 52 and 54 are also allowable over the disclosure of Laval et al.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as presently amended are all in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner allow the claims move the application to issue. However, if there are any remaining issues the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney, Jeffrey H. Canfield at (312) 807-4233 in order to facilitate a speedy disposition of the present case.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this response they may be charged to deposit account no. 02-1818.

Respectfully submitted,

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